

The North Texas Church of Freethought BULLETIN

A Rational Approach to Religion

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FINDING PEACE OF MIND



It is probably accurate to say that religions of all kinds sell “peace of mind.” They take different approaches, they offer different solutions, and some go to the trouble of robbing would-be followers of their peace of mind in order to sell it back to them. But we all want and need peace of mind and can learn from experience, each other, and, especially, facts and reason

about how to achieve peace of mind. Today’s NTCOF service will consider a variety of ideas related to this natural human need and want.



JUNE MUSIC LYRICS

“If” by Bread

If a picture paints a thousand words, then why can't I paint you? The words will never show the you I've come to know. If a face could launch a thousand ships, then where am I to go? There's no one home but you, you're all that's left me too. And when my love for life is running dry, you come and pour yourself on me.

If a man could be two places at one time, I'd be with you. Tomorrow and today, beside you all the way. If the world should stop revolving spinning slowly down to die, I'd spend the end with you. And when the world was through, then one by one the stars would all go out, then you and I would simply fly away

“When I’m Sixty-Four” by The Beatles

When I get older, losing my hair, many years from now. Will you still be sending me a Valentine, birthday greetings, bottle of wine?

If I’ve been out till quarter to three, would you lock the door? Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I’m sixty-four?

You’ll be older too and if you say the word I could stay with you.

I could be handy, mending a fuse, when your lights are gone. You can knit a sweater by the fireside. Sunday morning go for a ride.

Doing the garden, digging the weeds, who could ask for more? Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I’m sixty-four?

Every summer we can rent a cottage in the isle of Wight if it’s not too dear. Grandchildren on our knees Vera, Chuck and Dave.

Send me a postcard, drop me a line, stating point of view. Indicate precisely what you mean to say. Yours sincerely wasting away.

Give me your answer, fill in a form, - mine for ever more. Will you still need me, will you still feed me when I’m sixty-four?



**MOVING FORWARD
WITH UNITY AND PURPOSE**



The United Coalition of Reason is delighted to announce an essay contest as part of our upcoming Good Without God campaign tied not only to a social movement but to a book that's being published in the fall. Please forward this message as widely as possible and help us unite the millions of voices of reason across the country.

The contest is simple. Please tell us your personal story, in 500 words or less: what does it mean for you to be Good Without God? How do you live out your positive values as a Humanist, atheist, agnostic, secularist, or freethinker? Please write in the first person.

We highly encourage you to share specific examples about your god-free involvement in service to country or community; how your non-religious approach to life helped you to get through a difficult time; or how it transformed your relationships with your family and the people you care about.

The author of the first-prize essay will receive a prize of \$1,000, courtesy of the United Coalition of Reason. The first twenty five submissions will receive a signed copy of the upcoming book by Greg Epstein, Humanist Chaplain of Harvard University, entitled Good Without God: What a Billion Non-Religious People Do Believe, when the book is released in October courtesy of William Morrow/HarperCollins Publishers. Many entries will be published by the UnitedCoalition of Reason as part of our upcoming nationwide Good Without God Campaign. For more information about the UnitedCoR, please see this recent article from the New York Times front page:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/27/us/27atheist.html>

Along with your essay we require that you send a high-resolution photo of yourself that represents you. (Let us know who took the photo so we can credit them if we publish it.)

Please also include your:

- *Email Address
- *Phone number
- *Mailing address

Essays must be submitted by June 23, 2009 to be considered for the \$1,000 prize. Essays submitted after June 23 will not be eligible for the prize, but may still be eligible to be included in our national Good Without Campaign coming this fall.

Please send your essay, photo and details, by email to:

UnitedCoRGoodWithoutGod@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for joining us and for working to make your community a better place!

Warmly,

The United Coalition of Reason
<http://unitedcor.org>

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MAY FORUM CHATTER

The following is a sampling of the ongoing discussions held at the NTCOF forum through the past month- log on to add your two cents!

smurfortin: "My husband and I went to our first NTCOF meeting today and I must say it was very interesting and actually entertaining. I have such awful memories of boring church services that I've attended out of guilt and I was worried I might have to add this one to that list. But, thankfully, I will not have to. I never thought I'd say this but I actually look forward to going to church next month!"

BrandonBlair: "I was walking through Irving Mall yesterday (a dismal affair) and passed a booth hawking Dianetics literature and 'Free Stress Tests'. Yes, with the E-meter and everything...just down the hall from Barnes and Noble. A very clean cut, well dressed young gentleman (in an expensive suit with some weird patch) and an elderly man and woman were running it. What is this world coming to? Note the word 'Scientology' was nowhere to be found. They hit you with that fist later."

KipBond: "The object of evaluation is desires. That is the only reason for action that exists. We desire to live. We desire to love. We desire to be happy. We desire to be content. We desire to not be harmed. We desire to be healthy. We desire to laugh. These are real. And so is the desire to rape. The desire to murder. The desire to steal. How do we determine which desires are good? Isn't that the central question of morality? DU says we examine those desires in relation to other desires. Some desires tend to fulfill more and stronger desires. Some desires tend to thwart more and stronger desires. The former are good. The latter are bad. Now we can spend time examining reality to determine which are which, and encourage the good desires, and discourage the bad ones, and try to make the world a better place."

DAP: "Are organizations that aggressively protest against individuals or groups of people responsible for the actions of their members when they go too far? Similar questions have been brought up when there have been attacks and killing of gay people by followers of anti-gay organizations."

Find more lively discussion at:

www.churchoffreethought.org/bb

WE NEED YOUR PLEDGE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

Our continued growth is only possible through the generous donations and contributions to the church and the commitment of ALL our members. In order to make our vision of providing a permanent home to freethinkers in the Dallas/Fort Worth area a reality, we'll need all our members to **consider making a pledge of continued support**. This is the only way that we can achieve the financial stability necessary to purchase a building and provide a home to even more Texas freethinkers.

Please detach this corner of the bulletin if you'd like to pledge ongoing support to the NTCOF, and drop it in the Rainbow-Colored Box!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Pledge Per Month

General Fund: _____

Building Fund: _____

Special: _____

Total Pledge:

**JUNE BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP:
PRO-COUNT, INC.**

The June 2009 issue of the NTCOF bulletin was sponsored by Pro-Count, Inc, who will donate \$40 to the NTCOF on behalf of any NTCOF member who enrolls and completes Concealed Handgun License training through this school. To sign up for the class, please visit:

www.chl-tx.com

Please contact the Executive Director if you or your business would like to sponsor a future bulletin

JUNE EVENTS

All NTCOF events can be found through our website calendar, or through our Meetup.com site. Please check these locations regularly, and RSVP through Meetup.

Social Luncheon: Today, immediately after our Service, join us for lunch and friendly discussion at Jason's Deli in Irving, located just south of I-635 on MacArthur, at 7770 N. MacArthur Blvd., phone (972) 432-0555. Easy driving directions: To reach Jason's from the Holiday Inn: turn RIGHT out of the parking lot onto Esters Blvd., RIGHT onto Freeport Parkway, RIGHT to enter I-635 EAST. Exit I-635 at MacArthur Blvd., then RIGHT onto MacArthur, and RIGHT again just ahead into the Jason's parking lot.

Board Game Night: The NTCOF Board Game group meets nearly every Friday night at the smoke-free IHOP at 2310 Stemmons Trail in Dallas. The IHOP is adjacent to the Radisson Hotel along North-west Highway, about a ½ mile east of Loop 12.

Secular Singles: The Freethinking NTCOF Singles meets at the Vineyard restaurant in the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine (1800 Highway 26 East).

Women's Group: Do you miss getting to spend quality time with female friends? Want a comfortable place to chat without all those pesky men around? Come on out to the newly-formed NTCOF Women's Group, where there will be knitting lessons, conversation, and lots of female freethinking fun! Next meeting is **Sunday, June 28th at 3:00 PM at Brenda Magee's home.**

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Wouldn't it be great to get to know better all the other freethinkers at the NTCOF? Did you ever wonder who else in the NTCOF likes backpacking, or knitting, or Robert Heinlein novels? Don't you wish it was easier to get in contact with your fellow freethinkers than having to dig back through your email archives?

There's a simple solution! It's been five years since the latest version of the NTCOF Member Directory was produced, and there have been a lot of new members in the meantime. We'll be updating the Directory this year, and it couldn't be easier!

Just fill out the information form inserted in this month's bulletin, and drop it in the Rainbow-Colored Box either today or at our next month's service. If you would prefer a more electronic option, you can visit the information submission form on our website.

Only those members who are willing to submit their own information will receive a copy of the Directory, which will only exist as a printed copy, and will never be available for download to the general public here on the website.

The Member Directory will be hard-bound and made available for a suggested donation of just \$10.

**PLEASE DETACH AND PLACE
IN RAINBOW-COLORED BOX**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT OF THE NTCOF!**

PROUD MEMBERS OF THE



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